

## FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

Late Summer 2014**Getting-Out the Word...**

The fractional currency collector community needs to get the word out about fractional currency to more people. Not just the currency and coin collectors, but also civil war buffs. We need to tell them how historic and under-valued fractional currency is! Volunteers need to give talks at your local coin clubs. Show them some portage and fractional notes. Let them know the first postage notes that came out, went directly to the army paymasters to pay the unit soldiers in August of 1862. They were paid-out in sheets and then cut-up to make change. So the change in the soldiers' pockets was postage currency.

Then postage currency was issued to the public a few days later. The postage and then starting in 1863, the fractional currency helped save commerce in the North during and after the Civil War. With some \$368,000,000 worth of postage and fractional currency issued it also helped pay for the Civil War.

When you compare the rarity and how hard it is to buy high-grade (even UNC.) notes it becomes quite clear that postage and fractional currency is a great value. For now, it's undervalued. This is especially true when comparing it to the value of large size notes. Large size notes with the same rarity as fractionals sell for as much as 10 times more given the same rarity. In fact, a lot of the common large size notes are more abundant than the most common fractionals. For example: the \$1 black eagle silver certificate of 1899 had some 3,752,478,000 notes issued...that's 3 BILLION more than the most common 5<sup>th</sup> issue 10c fractional! Yet the black eagle notes sell for 5 to 10 times the price of the 10c Meredith!

To peak the interest of the Civil War buff, you could tell the story about the 15c Grant/Sherman notes portraying the two Civil War generals. The only large size note with two Civil War generals is the \$5 1896 silver certificate with Grant/Sherman on the reverse. A GEM example of this note sells for \$20,000 and up, whereby the fractional Grant/Sherman specimen \$15 obverse can be obtained for 1/20<sup>th</sup> the cost. Also, there are 50 times as many \$5 1896 silver certificates as there are Grant/Sherman specimens.

Let's all work together to inform other currency collectors and civil war enthusiasts know about portage and fractional currency, its important role in our history and its undervalue when compared to other collectable currencies. It's a bargain when compared to other rarities, and a great way to begin studying and collecting the currency that played an important role in our country's history. Please join me and many others in our club working to get the word out.

Enjoy your notes!

*Rob*

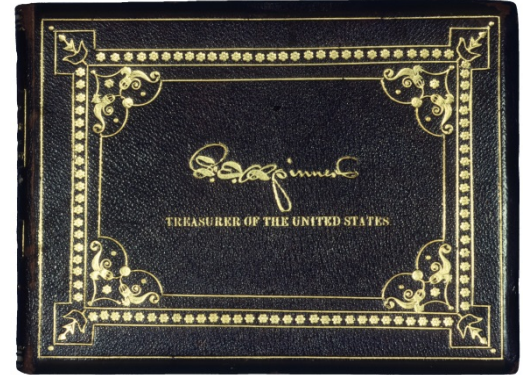
Rob Kravitz

FCCB Newsletter  
c/o Jerry Fochtman  
2818 Mountain Green Trail  
Kingwood, TX 77345  
(281) 361-8948  
jerry@fochtman.us

# NEWS FROM MEMPHIS

By  
*Rob Kravitz*

The biggest news from Memphis has to be the sale of a presentation Book! The Treasurer of the United States, F.E. Spinner's book was sold at auction. This book is a Great condition, with Spinner's famous signature embossed on the cover.



Also sold at the show was some fifth issue proof backs (no fronts known). They were as follows: 10c in black, not green (Very Rare); 10c "Sample Proof"; and a 25c "Sample Proof". There also were 10c and 25c proofs in green.

However, the Fr. 1351, Choice New (finest known), the Milt Friedberg/Tom O'Mara note did not sell! It last sold at the Tom O'Mara sale bringing \$29,900 with the juice. The existing fractional collectors that could afford this note already had them, and apparently there wasn't any interest from collectors of other currency.

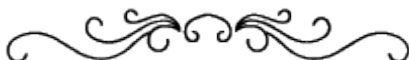
FCCB's dinner meeting at the Spaghetti Warehouse went very well! Overall the first waitress never came back! I guess she couldn't handle my good looks... ☺ The new waitress we got, Beth, was very good. The food was very good, as was all the company.



There was 20-1/2 in attendance. To the best of my recollection, the following folks attended: Benny Bolin, Bill Brandimore, Jerry Deitsch, myself, Mike Marchioni, John Musarra, Sid Reese and his wife, David and Pam Stitely, along with the daughter Kirstin and her baby (the ½), John and Wendy Watson, John and Nancy Wilson and Nicholas York.

Following dinner we had some show-n-tell before adjourning the meeting.

I encourage everyone to begin making plans to attend Memphis next year, to bring an exhibit on some aspect of your postage and fractional currency collecting interest and plan on joining us for an evening of food and fellowship.





# HERITAGE<sup>®</sup> CURRENCY AUCTIONS

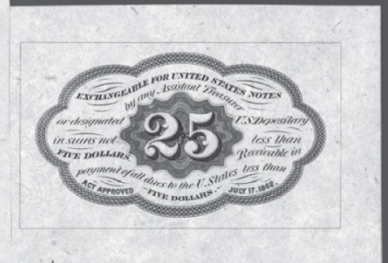
## Specializing in Fractional Specimens? Thinking of Starting?

Heritage Auctions typically has an attractive selection of Specimens for your consideration in our Signature<sup>®</sup> Auctions. Here are a few from April's Central States auction.

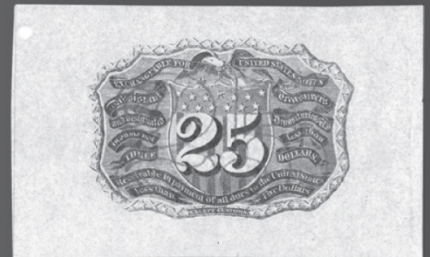
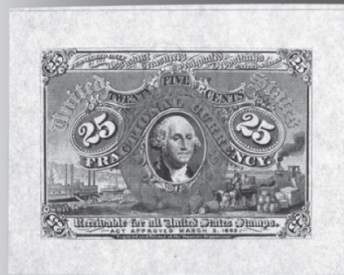
Enlarge the images of any of the Specimen URLs, and you'll see what the excitement is all about. To consider what treasures are being sold next, visit HA.com.

To include your consignment in one of our upcoming auctions, please contact a Heritage Consignment Director at **800-872-6467 ext. 1001** for a confidential discussion of your best opportunities.

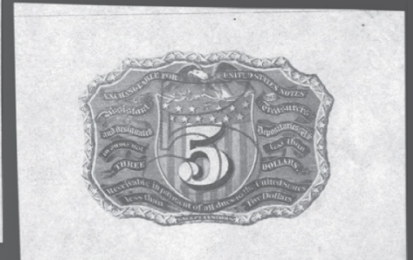
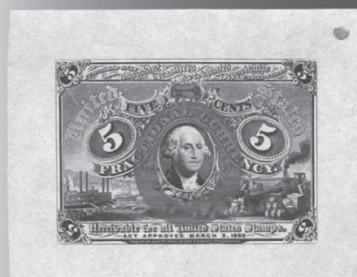
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Wide Margin Pair  
PMG Superb Gem Unc 67 EPQ  
HA.com/3527\*15096 | **Realized: \$1,645**



Fr. 1283SP 25¢ Second Issue  
Wide Margin Pair  
PMG Superb Gem Unc 67 EPQ & 66 EPQ  
HA.com/3527\*15105 | **Realized: \$1,880**



Fr. 1232SP 5¢ Second Issue  
Wide Margin Pair  
PMG Superb Gem Unc 67 EPQ & 66 EPQ  
HA.com/3527\*15099 | **Realized: \$1,763**

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# FRACTIONAL PRICE LIST FROM THE EARLY 1980s

by  
Rick Melamed

While cleaning out a closet at home, I came across an old price sheet of fractionals from the early 1980s. Since the price list from an unnamed dealer (no longer in business) was well illustrated, I thought it was worth sharing with my fellow FCCBers. As you can see, there has been a dramatic increase in value of some items. How many UNC Lincolns do you want to buy at \$195 each? An UNC Stanton for \$100? A red back Fessenden in UNC for \$125? While you enjoy, I am heading to the garage to build a time machine and scoop up some bargains!

## FRACTIONAL CURRENCY


Fractional Currency was issued by the United States from 1862 to 1875. During the Civil War hoarding of coins required the issuing of this interesting short-lived series of notes. They remain legal tender to this day. Notes were issued in denominations of 3, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 cents. There were 28 different major types issued.



**3 CENT ... THIRD ISSUED**

F ... \$18.00	VF ... \$25.00	XF ... \$30.00
AU ... \$40.00	UNC ... \$60.00	

**G. WASHINGTON**




**5 CENT ... THIRD ISSUE**

**Spencer Clark ... Red Reverse**

F ... \$18.00	VF ... \$25.00	XF ... \$35.00
AU ... \$50.00	UNC ... \$100.00	

**Spencer Clark ... Green Reverse**

F ... \$12.00	VF ... \$15.00	XF ... \$20.00
AU ... \$29.50	UNC ... \$50.00	




**5 CENT ... FIRST ISSUE**

**T. Jefferson ... Perforated Edges**

F ... \$15.00	VF ... \$20.00	XF ... \$35.00
AU ... \$65.00	UNC ... \$110.00	

**T. Jefferson ... Straight Edges**

F ... \$12.00	VF ... \$15.00	XF ... \$18.00
AU ... \$29.50	UNC ... \$45.00	




**10 CENT ... FIRST ISSUE**

**G. Washington ... Perforated Edge**

F ... \$15.00	VF ... \$20.00	XF ... \$35.00
AU ... \$75.00	UNC ... \$125.00	

**G. Washington ... Straight Edges**


F ... \$10.00	VF ... \$15.00	XF ... \$20.00
AU ... \$29.50	UNC ... \$50.00	



**5 CENT ... SECOND ISSUE**

**G. WASHINGTON**

F ... \$12.00	VF ... \$15.00	XF ... \$20.00
AU ... \$29.50	UNC ... \$45.00	

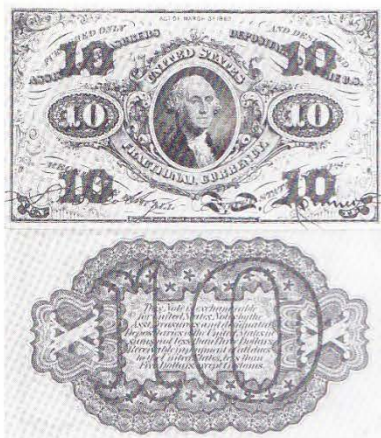


**10 CENT ... SECOND ISSUE**

**G. WASHINGTON**

F ... \$12.00	VF ... \$17.00	XF ... \$25.00
AU ... \$35.00	UNC ... \$50.00	





10 CENT THIRD ISSUE  
G. Washington ... Red Reverse  
F ... \$15.00 VF ... \$20.00 XF ... \$35.00  
AU ... \$65.00 UNC ... \$125.00

10 CENT THIRD ISSUE  
G. Washington ... Green Reverse  
F ... \$10.00 VF ... \$15.00 XF ... \$20.00  
AU ... \$35.00 UNC ... \$50.00

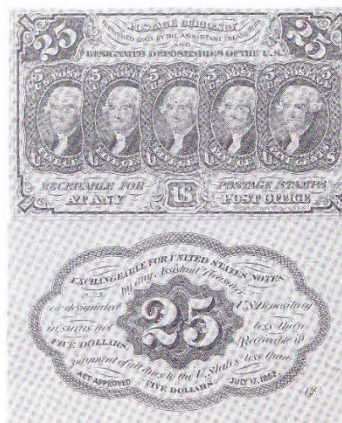


10 CENT FIFTH ISSUE  
W. Meredith ... Green Seal  
F ... \$10.00 VF ... \$14.00 XF ... \$18.00  
AU ... \$35.00 UNC ... \$65.00

10 CENT FIFTH ISSUE  
W. Meredith ... Red Seal  
F ... \$8.00 VF ... \$10.00 XF ... \$12.50  
AU ... \$19.50 UNC ... \$29.50



10 CENT ... FOURTH ISSUE LIBERTY  
F ... \$10.00 VF ... \$14.00 XF ... \$18.00  
AU ... \$27.50 UNC ... \$45.00

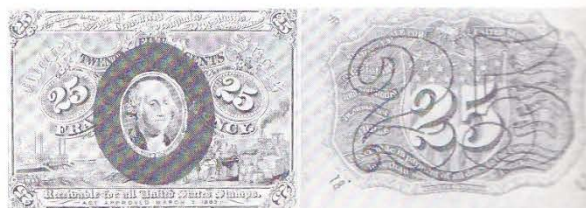


25 CENT FIRST ISSUE  
T. Jefferson ... Perforated Edges  
F ... \$25.00 VF ... \$30.00 XF ... \$50.00  
AU ... \$85.00 UNC ... \$135.00

25 CENT FIRST ISSUE  
T. Jefferson ... Straight Edges  
F ... \$12.00 VF ... \$18.00 XF ... \$25.00  
AU ... \$45.00 UNC ... \$75.00



15 CENT ... FOURTH ISSUE COLUMBIA  
F ... \$30.00 VF ... \$35.00 XF ... \$40.00  
AU ... \$65.00 UNC ... \$110.00



25 CENT ... SECOND ISSUE G. WASHINGTON  
F ... \$12.00 VF ... \$17.00 XF ... \$25.00  
AU ... \$45.00 UNC ... \$80.00





25 CENT THIRD ISSUE  
Fessenden ... Red Reverse  
F ... \$16.00 VF ... \$25.00 XF ... \$50.00  
AU ... \$80.00 UNC ... \$125.00

25 CENT THIRD ISSUE  
Fessenden ... Green Reverse  
F ... \$10.00 VF ... \$15.00 XF ... \$20.00  
AU ... \$40.00 UNC ... \$80.00



25 CENT ... FOURTH ISSUE G. WASHINGTON  
F ... \$10.00 VF ... \$15.00 XF ... \$20.00  
AU ... \$35.00 UNC ... \$50.00



25 CENT ... FIFTH ISSUE R.V. WALKER  
F ... \$9.00 VF ... \$10.00 XF ... \$12.50  
AU ... \$19.50 UNC ... \$30.00



50 CENT FIRST ISSUE  
G. Washington ... Perforated Edges  
F ... \$25.00 VF ... \$40.00 XF ... \$65.00  
AU ... \$135.00 UNC ... \$200.00

50 CENT FIRST ISSUE  
G. Washington ... Straight Edges  
F ... \$15.00 VF ... \$22.50 XF ... \$35.00  
AU ... \$60.00 UNC ... \$100.00

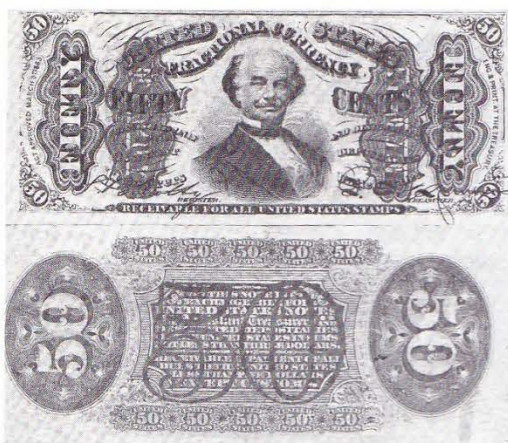


50 CENT ... SECOND ISSUE G. WASHINGTON  
F ... \$18.00 VF ... \$22.50 XF ... \$35.00  
AU ... \$60.00 UNC ... \$135.00



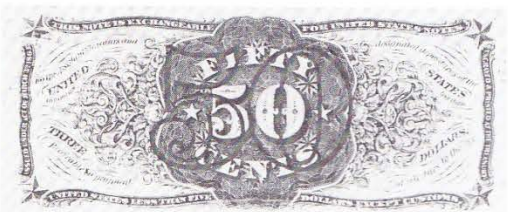
50 CENT ... FOURTH ISSUE A. LINCOLN  
F ... \$35.00 VF ... \$50.00 XF ... \$85.00  
AU ... \$130.00 UNC ... \$195.00





50 CENT THIRD ISSUE  
F. E. Spinner ... Red Type 1 Reverse  
F ... \$30.00 VF ... \$40.00 XF ... \$65.00  
AU ... \$90.00 UNC ... \$195.00

50 CENT THIRD ISSUE  
F. E. Spinner ... Green Type 1 Reverse  
F ... \$27.50 VF ... \$30.00 XF ... \$45.00  
AU ... \$75.00 UNC ... \$150.00

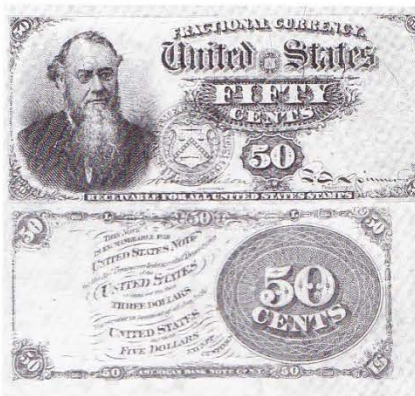


50 CENT THIRD ISSUE  
F. E. Spinner ... Green Type 2 Reverse  
F ... \$37.50 VF ... \$45.00 XF ... \$60.00  
AU ... \$110.00 UNC ... \$200.00



50 CENT THIRD ISSUE  
Justice ... Red Reverse  
F ... \$35.00 VF ... \$50.00 XF ... \$90.00  
AU ... \$150.00 UNC ... \$275.00

50 CENT THIRD ISSUE  
Justice ... Green Reverse  
F ... \$32.50 VF ... \$47.50 XF ... \$80.00  
AU ... \$140.00 UNC ... \$235.00



50 CENT ... FOURTH ISSUE E.M. STANTON  
F ... \$18.50 VF ... \$25.00 XF ... \$40.00  
AU ... \$60.00 UNC ... \$100.00



50 CENT ... FOURTH ISSUE S. DEXTER  
F ... \$15.00 VF ... \$20.00 XF ... \$30.00  
AU ... \$45.00 UNC ... \$85.00



50 CENT ... FIFTH ISSUE W.H. CRAWFORD  
F ... \$15.00 VF ... \$20.00 XF ... \$25.00  
AU ... \$35.00 UNC ... \$50.00

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**WANT LISTS SERVICED**

I attend many of the major shows and auctions to satisfy my customer's collecting needs.

The following is a small sampling of some prize notes that I have placed into customer's collections:

*Marchioni* Fr. 1248 Choice CU

Fr. 1299 Very Choice CU

*Gengerke* Fr. 1330 Gem CU

Fr. 1336 Choice CU

*O'Mara* Fr. 1339 NM Specimen Reverse AU

Fr. 1340 Superb Gem CU

Fr. 1348 Choice CU

Fr. 1368 Gem CU

*O'Mara* Fr. 1371 Choice AU

***James Polis***

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Washington, D.C. 20008

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Jpolis7935@aol.com

**(Current Membership List Information Removed)**

## Member's Trading Post

Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Digital Collection Effort.  Jerry Fochtman <a href="mailto:jerry@fochtman.us">jerry@fochtman.us</a>	Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail <a href="mailto:riconio@yahoo.com">riconio@yahoo.com</a> or call 818/591-2326. Thanks – Rick Melamed.	Want lists serviced and auction representation with over 40 years of Fractional experience  Mike Marchioni <a href="mailto:Marchion@ETSU.EDU">Marchion@ETSU.EDU</a> 423/439-5362
	Wanted: Fr.1374 (Lincoln) Counterfeits notes, scans, clippings, info, etc.  Fred Reed (FCCB #55) <a href="mailto:Freed3@airmail.net">Freed3@airmail.net</a> P.O.B 118162 Carrollton, TX 75011	

Current FCCB Members are welcome to submit requests for the Trading Post!

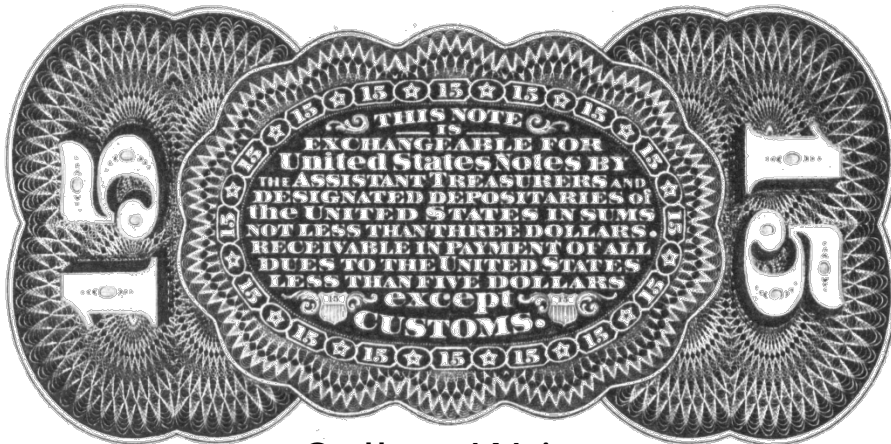
**Editor's Note:** *Due to personal challenges, this issue of our newsletter is quite late, for which I do apologize. I am striving to get caught-up, and should have the Fall issue out shortly after you receive this edition. We are also always in need of articles or stories that are related to the topic of postage/fractional currency, so please consider contributing today. Also, if you are conducting research consider submitting a note on your efforts that we might publish. You may be pleasantly surprised at what information a fellow collector may be able to share that will assist in your efforts.*



# Buying & Selling



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# TREASURY RECTANGLES ON 2<sup>nd</sup> ISSUE FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

by  
*Rick Melamed*

*(Editor's Note: This is the part 2 of a multi-part series whereby the author explores U.S. Treasury rectangle stamps that appear on fractional currency.)*

## **From Rob Kravitz - A Collector's Guide to Postage & Fractional Currency – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2012**

A lot of the first issue notes were counterfeited. Therefore a concerned Congress ordered the Treasury Department to print notes on distinctive paper. They had no distinctive paper at the time and were pressed for time to start printing the second issue notes

By taking regular banknote paper and imprinting with a rectangular Treasury stamp and making it Treasury paper, therefore making it distinctive paper.

The rectangle was at the very end of the sheet and it was intended to be trimmed off when the sheets were cut, which accounts for its rarity. These are only found on 2<sup>nd</sup> issue notes.

The following are how many are known:

- Fr.1232 – One full sheet with seal on lower right bottom corner (ex. Rockholt/Milt Friedberg)
- Fr.1232 5¢ notes – 6 known
- Fr.1244 10¢ notes – 10 known
- Fr.1283 25¢ notes – 15 known
- Fr.1316 50¢ notes – none known

*Author's note: As time moves forward and the amount of notes with Treasury Rectangles are codified and the estimated population rises. As of early 2014 and according to past Fractional Club (FCCB) President Mike Marchioni: "I believe there are about (21) Fr. 1283, (10) Fr. 1232, (8-10) Fr. 1244 and no 50 cent notes. Most folks believe the 5 cent is rarer than the 10 cent, but I've owned twice as many of the 5s."*

*Mike indicated that his estimated count of 39-41 examples did not include the (7) Treasury Rectangle notes in the John Ford Sale (Stacks Ford Sale XIX; October 1997). Ford's holdings contained: (3) 5¢ Fr.1232 and (4) 25¢ Fr.1283. The total estimate including Ford's notes stands between 46-48 known examples.*

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Any serious fractional collector seeks a Treasury Rectangle note for their holdings. Aside from their historical significance, they sure are striking. Any example always adds considerably to their value. For this article, I've selected a few examples for observation.



- The Fr.1232 Graded PCGS40 (below) sold for \$1,437.50 on Heritage in 2008. It contains 80% of the rectangle on the back.



- A second Fr.1232 with a full Treasury Dept. rectangle in AU sold for \$747.50 on Heritage in 2006.



- An Fr.1244 with the rectangle on the face grading PMG45 sold for \$920 by Heritage in 2010. An astonishing price clearly increasing its value by 15 to 20 times, most likely because most of the rectangle is present.



- The Fr.1283 shown below which graded VF and containing the rectangle on the face, sold by Heritage for \$488.75 in April 2006. This version is unusual since the ink color is green, all other rectangles researched on the HA site have a bronze color. This however, is a case of oxidation since the bronze oval has also turned green and we know from the research that the Treasury Rectangle was colored with the same bronzing powder used in the oval.



To Be Continued...

